

Patent Attorney Docket No. GEMS8081.201

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Ikhlef et al.

Serial No.

10/707,407

Filed

12/11/2003

For

MASK LAYER

Group Art No.

2882

Examiner

Chih-Cheng Glen Kao

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a) and 1.10

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COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Notice of Allowability mailed April 16, 2007, Applicant submits the following remarks responsive to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

U.S. Serial No. 10/707,407

REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance, Applicant believes that a separate Statement of Reasons for Allowance is unnecessary in the present case as the file history sufficiently sets forth the patentable distinctions of claims 1-4, 7, 9, 12-15, 18-21 and 24-30.

The patentability of claims 1-4, 7, 9, 12-15, 18-21 and 24-30 lies in each claim as a whole. That is, a single particular element or feature of a claim does not define the claim's patentability, but rather, it is the combination of elements and the interconnection therebetween that define the invention. The claims cannot be considered to be limited in scope based on this brief statement by the Examiner. Applicant stands by its position previously set forth in the file history.

Applicant does not acquiesce to the accuracy of the Examiner's statements in the Reasons for Allowance nor the Examiner's partial paraphrasing of the claim elements.

Entry of these remarks is appreciated and Applicant cordially invites the Examiner to respond, should the Examiner disagree.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 5/7/07 Attorney Docket No.: GEMS8081.201

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